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**Art in Panama**

Many people don’t think of art when they think of Panama. In fact, Panama has very remarkable and fascinating types of art. Some popular types of art in Panama include baskets, Molas, and masks. Many arts are inspired by traditional types of art from Panama tribes.

 Molas are panels for blouses which use many layers of fabric. Kuna women started to make them when they could buy from stores. In their Molas, they include traditional/cultural designs from Kuna legends and modern designs. Another inspiration for the traditional designs was the pre-Hispanic body paintings. Molas can include many different types of designs. For example, Molas can include animal designs, cultural designs, patterns, figure designs, garden theme designs, and so many other designs.

Another popular type of art is baskets. They are made with Nahuala palm which is grown in Panama. The baskets are made by the women of the tribes of Wounaan and Embera. Both of the tribes make the same types of patterns and designs. The baskets include many types of patterns and colors. Also, they have many designs like the Molas. The colors on the baskets are mostly shades of brown, but many baskets have a lot of color. The baskets are useful and a work of art, and because of that they are very popular. They can be counted as art because of their unique designs.They are each one of a kind because they are handmade.

This is what a basket from Panama would look like.

Masks are also made in Panama by the Embera. The Embera masks are made with Nahuala palm, the same plant as the baskets. The masks are in different shapes such as birds, crocodiles, and monkeys. The Embera Indians made them in those designs because they were inspired by animals in the rainforest of Panama. The masks are usually colorful, and dyed with other plants. Masks can also be used for religious reasons. For example, during Carnival (a holiday in panama) they wear masks and different costumes while they have parades.

What you should know:

In Panama, there are many different types of art. Most are handmade and may be very expensive. For example, a Pollera can cost from hundreds to thousands of dollars, and a hat might take up to a year to make because they are unique/handmade.